

QUEEN ALLIQUIPPA, SENECA LEADER

Queen Alliquippa was born around 1680. As a young woman she met the British man who founded Pennsylvania, William Penn. He treated the American Indians with respect and honesty. He truly wanted to be friends with them. Throughout her life, Queen Alliquippa was friendly to the British, perhaps because she had met with Penn.

A WISE QUEEN

In the early 1700s, Queen Alliquippa was living in western Pennsylvania. She was a powerful leader of a village of Seneca American Indians. Although she was called a queen, Queen Alliquippa worked hard. She was chosen for her wisdom and how well she could lead.

Important decisions were made during meetings called councils. Everyone in the village had a say. After listening to the people in their village, the leaders would make the decisions.

TAKING SIDES

In the 1750s, before any settlers arrived in western Pennsylvania, the French and the British were fighting to see who would control the land. The American Indians didn't want either the French or the British to control the land they lived on. They also really did not want to be involved in the war. It was a difficult time. In the end, some villages decided to side with the French. Other villages, like Alliquippa's, decided to side with the British.

A VISIT FROM THE BRITISH

In 1753, George Washington visited Queen Alliquippa's village and gave her presents. The next year, the French took control of the area. Queen Alliquippa and her whole village decided to move to a British trading post in central Pennsylvania. In December of that year, Queen Alliquippa died. She was about 75 years old.

During her life, Queen Alliquippa did what she thought was best for her people. Why do we remember her? She was an Indian leader who fostered friendship and cooperation between the Native Americans and the British.

Adapted from an article by Jane Clark
Illustrated by Craig Spearing

